

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A root canal instrument for manual use, comprising a grip member (1) which has attached thereto an elongated tapering shaft (2) which is provided with at least one cutting edge coiled in spiral form around the longitudinal axis (8) of said shaft (2), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said shaft (2) has a cross-sectional shape which is provided at two opposite sides with one cutting edge (3, 4) each and whose side surfaces (5, 6) connecting said cutting edges (3, 4) are each made convex.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tangent angle at said cutting edge (3, 4) is made to range between 70° and 110°.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said cutting edge (3, 4) is made symmetrical relative to a straight line (7) or plane connecting said two cutting edges (3, 4).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the two cutting edges (3, 4) are made identical.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said two side surfaces (5, 6) are curved in the form of an arc.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said two side surfaces (5, 6) are curved in the form of a circular arc.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said two side surfaces (5, 6) are made symmetrical relative to said straight line (7) or plane connecting said cutting edges (5, 6).

Claim 8 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the front portion (9) of said shaft (2) is configured to be non-cutting.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said cutting edge (3, 4) is made symmetrical relative to a straight line (7) or plane connecting said two cutting edges (3, 4).

Claim 10 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the two cutting edges (3, 4) are made identical.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the two cutting edges (3, 4) are made identical.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said two side surfaces (5, 6) are curved in the form of an arc.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 3,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said two side surfaces (5, 6) are curved in the form of an arc.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 4,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said two side surfaces (5, 6) are curved in the form of an arc.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 2,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said two side surfaces (5, 6) are made symmetrical relative to
said straight line (7) or plane connecting said cutting edges (5, 6).

Claim 16 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 3,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said two side surfaces (5, 6) are made symmetrical relative to
said straight line (7) or plane connecting said cutting edges (5, 6).

Claim 17 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 4,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said two side surfaces (5, 6) are made symmetrical relative to
said straight line (7) or plane connecting said cutting edges (5, 6).

Claim 18 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 5,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said two side surfaces (5, 6) are made symmetrical relative to
said straight line (7) or plane connecting said cutting edges (5, 6).

Claim 19 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 6,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said two side surfaces (5, 6) are made symmetrical relative to
said straight line (7) or plane connecting said cutting edges (5, 6).

Appl. No. 10/621,499
Amdt. Dated July 14, 2005
Reply to Office action of May 10, 2005

Claim 20 (currently amended): The root canal instrument according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the front portion (9) of said shaft (2) is configured to be non-cutting.